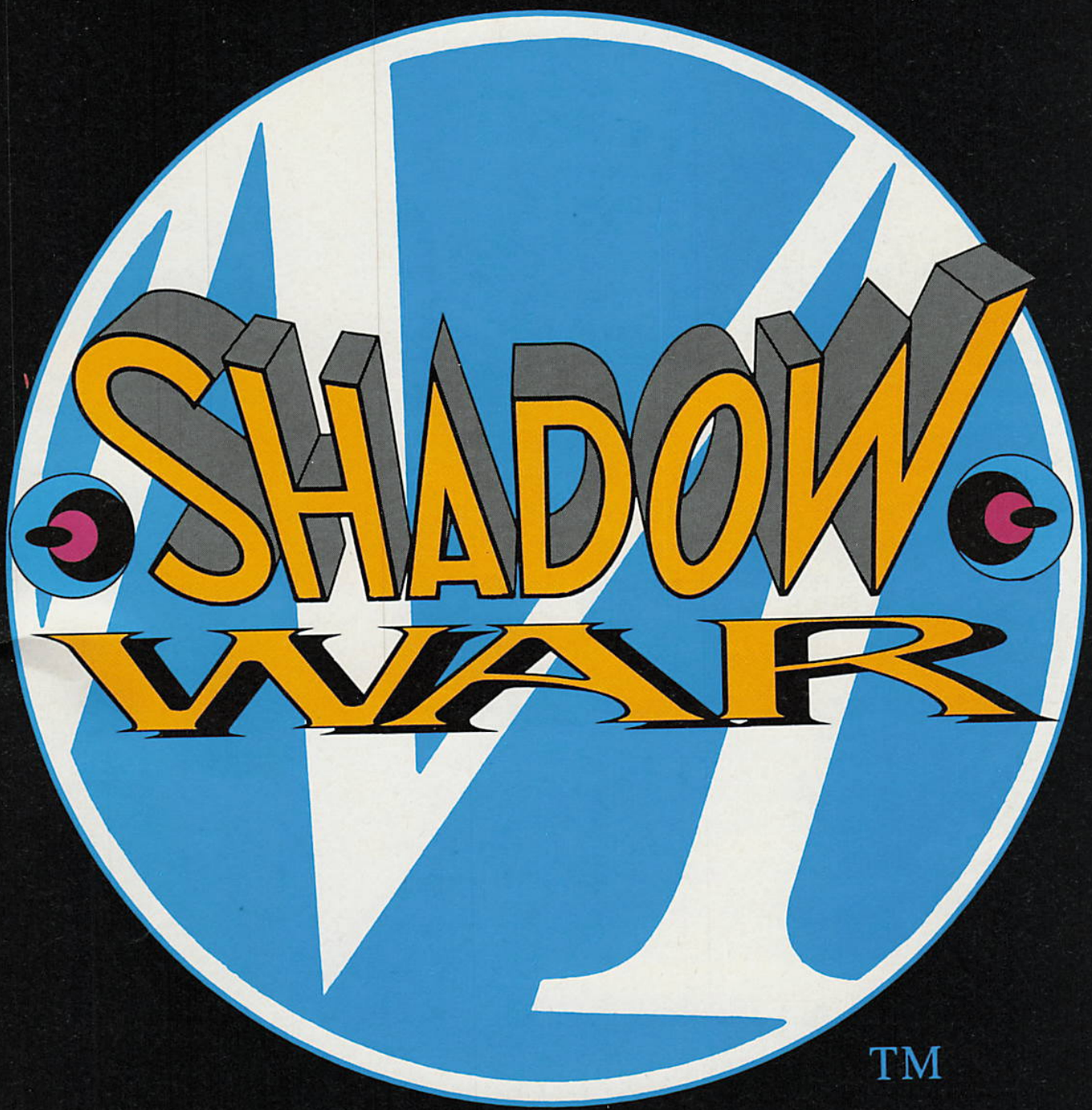
PREVIEW



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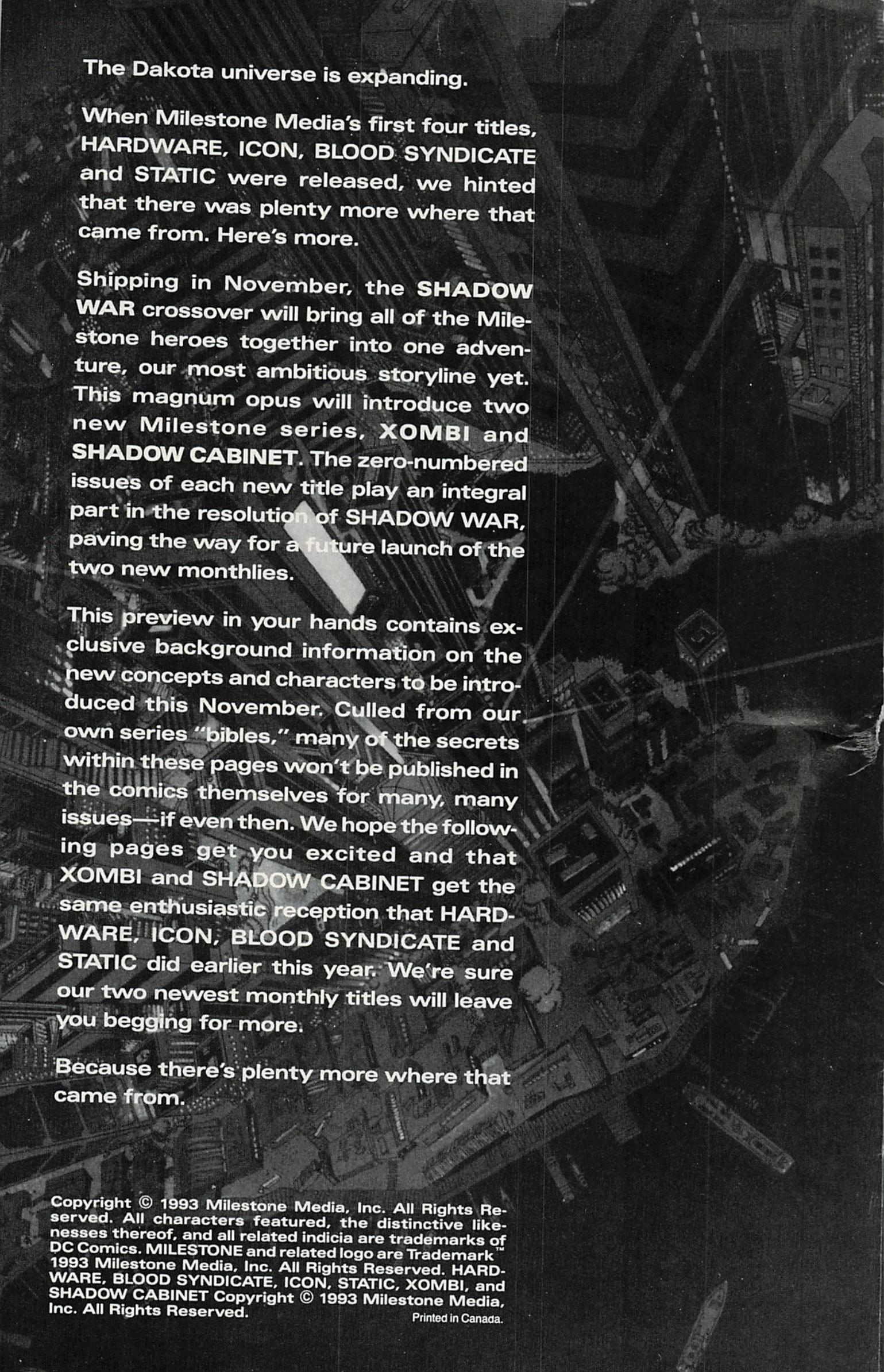

The Dakota universe is expanding.

When Milestone Media's first four titles, HARDWARE, ICON, BLOOD SYNDICATE and STATIC were released, we hinted that there was plenty more where that came from. Here's more.

Shipping in November, the **SHADOW WAR** crossover will bring all of the Milestone heroes together into one adventure, our most ambitious storyline yet. This magnum opus will introduce two new Milestone series, **XOMBI** and **SHADOW CABINET**. The zero-numbered issues of each new title play an integral part in the resolution of SHADOW WAR, paving the way for a future launch of the two new monthlies.

This preview in your hands contains exclusive background information on the new concepts and characters to be introduced this November. Culled from our own series "bibles," many of the secrets within these pages won't be published in the comics themselves for many, many issues—if even then. We hope the following pages get you excited and that XOMBI and SHADOW CABINET get the same enthusiastic reception that HARDWARE, ICON, BLOOD SYNDICATE and STATIC did earlier this year. We're sure our two newest monthly titles will leave you begging for more.

Because there's plenty more where that came from.

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Printed in Canada.

XOMBI

David Hyunsuk Kim is a man who cannot die. Grind him, chop him, dice him, whatever—and the nanomachines that reside in his body can knit him back together.

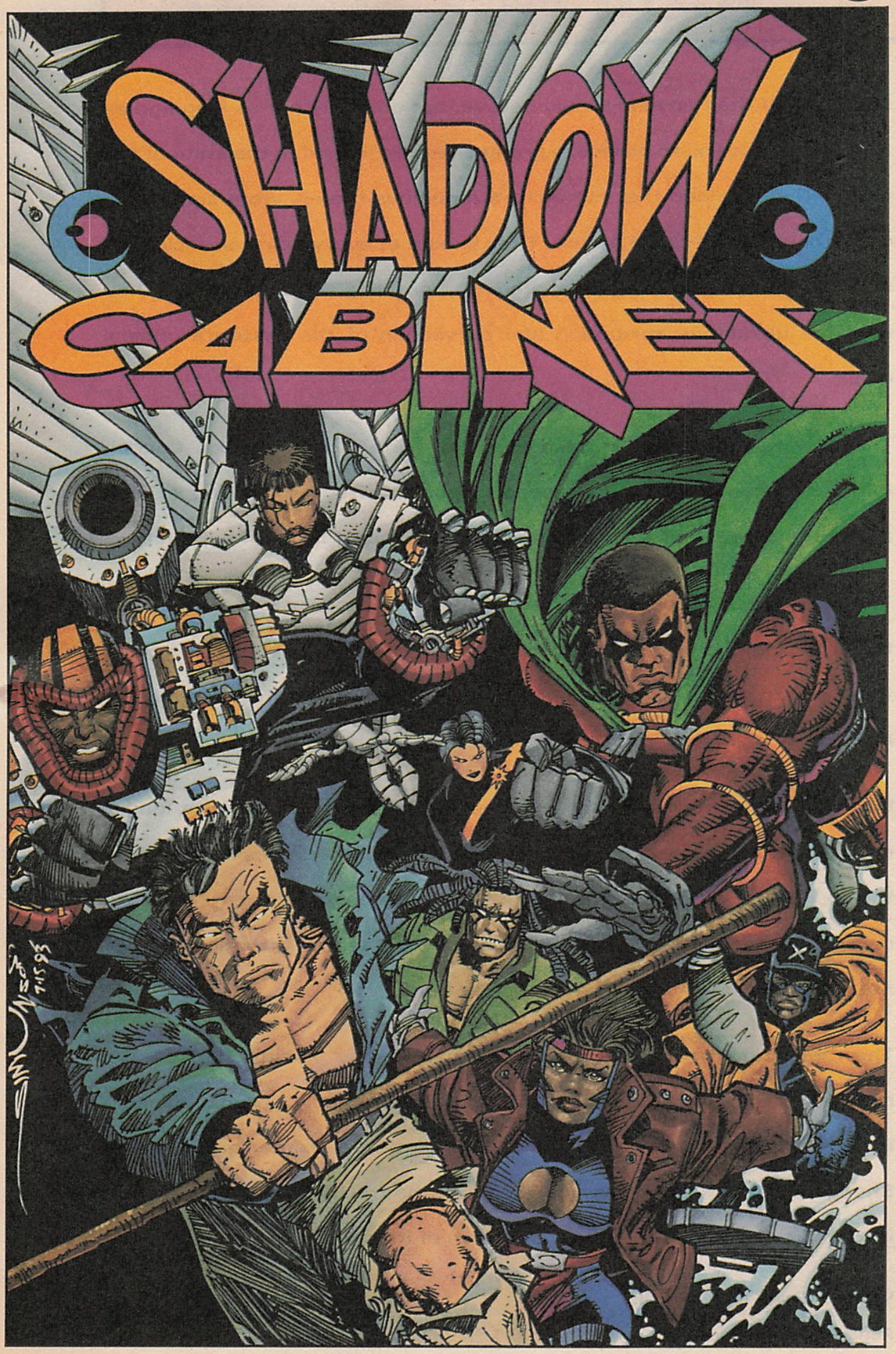
His research at Organitek, a biomedical think tank, was cut short when the dangerously insane Dr. Sugarman sent his horde of homunculi after the experimental technology. Horribly wounded from their attack on his lab, David ordered himself injected with the remaining nanomachines. David is now the proud possessor of a virtually perfect physique that cannot be destroyed.

As a Xombi, David seems unable to avoid the stranger elements of the Dakotaverse: the aforementioned Dr. Sugarman and his homunculi; Rabbi Sinnowitz and the Guild of Unseen Wonders; the Rustling Husks and the near-omniscient Nun of the Above, to name but a few.

Having gruesome adventures in the shadowy recesses of reality may seem like fun, but David doesn't want to spend the rest of his life taking precautions against the Artery Bandits, or being forced to aid Mooseter Fantastic in his nefarious schemes. Beyond occasionally helping a person in need, he just wants to be left alone.

Xombi's first appearance in comics will be in XOMBI #0. He has previously appeared in the *Milestone: The Dakota Universe* trading card set from SkyBox.

Writer: **John Rozum**
Penciller: **Denys Cowan**
Inker: **Jimmy Palmiotti**
Painted Color by **Noelle C. Giddings**


SHADOW
CABINET

SHADOW CABINET

Longer ago than anyone would believe, but probably not as long ago as they would *like* you to believe, a group of people looked at the state of the world. They decided that humanity's ambitious morals were continually undermined by its baser nature. They looked at every political, social and religious system seemingly devoted to promoting positive values. They saw the ubiquitous corruption and perversion of the system's original goals.

These were not people inclined to sit idly and watch injustice flourish without response. These were special people. Gifted people. People with abilities and powers far beyond those possessed by most of humanity.

They decided to take whatever actions were necessary to put an end to the suffering and injustice they saw; to put all personal concerns behind them and to put humanity's concerns first; to work together covertly for humanity's gain. And so **The Shadow Cabinet** was born.

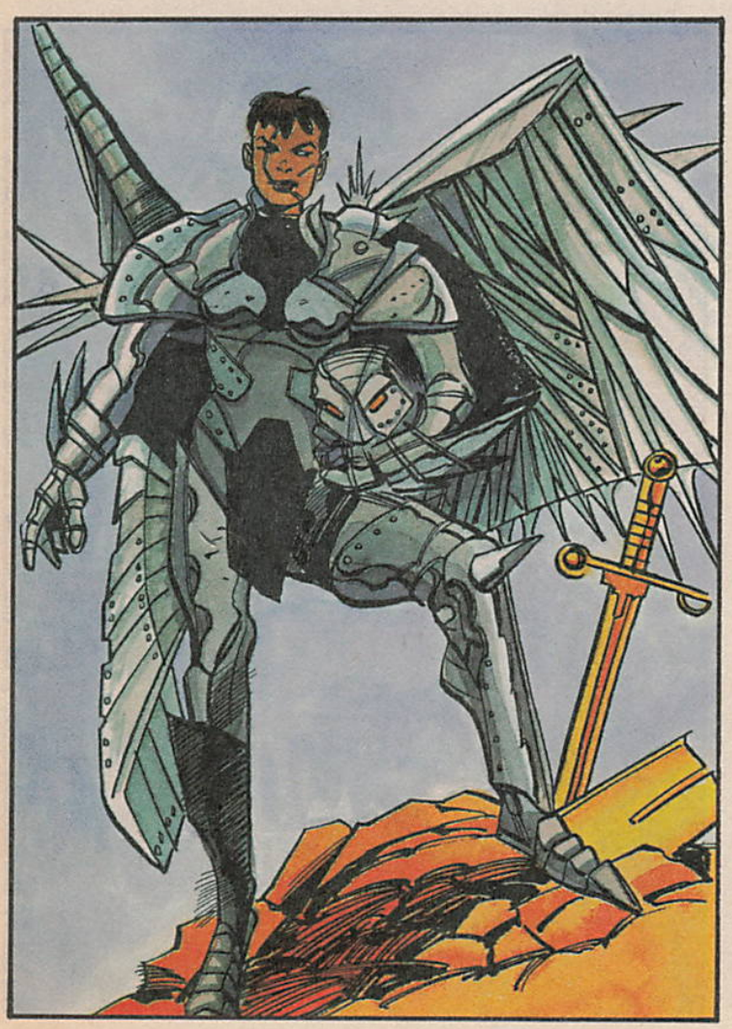
Deep within the mysterious base known as **Shadowspire, Dharma,** leader of the Shadow Cabinet, gathers information through a process known only to him. Keeping abreast of world events on a number of different fronts, he carefully chooses the situations that require the team's attention and the members appropriate for the mission at hand.

The regular members have all sworn their loyalty to him. The reserve members, **Hardware, Icon, Rocket** and **Static** supply an unimaginable level of added firepower. But the **Star Chamber,** a splinter group of the Shadow Cabinet's most powerful members, has rebelled against Dharma's leadership and begun a recruitment drive of its own.

Writers: **Dwayne McDuffie**
Robert L. Washington III
Penciller: **John Paul Leon**
Inker: **Rober Quijano**
Painted Color by **Noelle C. Giddings**

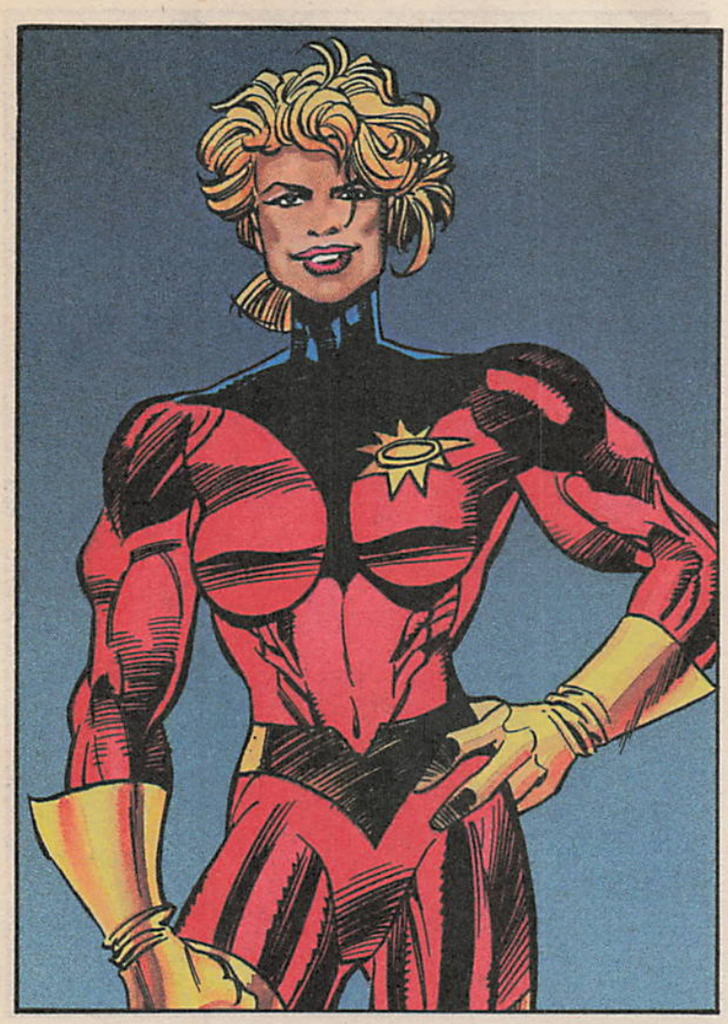
DHARMA

Real Name: Hareekarat Chawney
Powers: With effort, Dharma can see any person's or object's past and possible futures.
First Comics Appearance: HARDWARE #11
Origin: An Asian Indian-American, Harry Chawney was a quiet Professor of History at Medina University. His exposure to unknown radiation from a particle accelerator granted him the power to see the entirety of any object's history at once. Driven to madness by the uncontrollable influx of information and his apparently inescapable role in the world's future, he blinded himself. His powers thus dampened, Dharma is the Shadow Cabinet's pragmatic and canny leader who seldom misjudges the effects of his actions.



IRON BUTTERFLY

Real Name: Kahina Eskandari
Powers: Ferrokinesis—the ability to draw energy from and manipulate iron at will
First Comics Appearance: HARDWARE #11
Origin: The eldest daughter of a family of Palestinian refugees, Kahina and her family fled from war zone to war zone as she grew up. They were finally wiped out by a prototype chemical weapon supplied by SYSTEM. The gas left her alive, however, and granted her powers. Her ability to think quickly and maintain grace under pressure has made her the Shadow Cabinet's ideal Field Commander.



DONNER

Real Name: Gerte von Hohenbrauer, a.k.a. Kelly Brauer

Powers: Kelly is at least as strong as Icon, although she lacks his energy-manipulation ability.

First Comics Appearance: ICON #9

Origin: Kelly's grandfather was a Nazi geneticist who administered his secret scientific experiments to his own son. His son's eventual renunciation of the old man did not keep Kelly's grandfather from stealing her away as an infant. Reared as an American Nazi, Donner only began to reject their doctrine when her grandfather refused to accept her sexual orientation. Adopting a series of false identities, she eventually joined with Blitzen and, through her, the Shadow Cabinet.

BLITZEN

Real Name: Valerie Kameya

Powers: Blitzen can move at as-yet unlimited and unclocked speeds.

First Comics Appearance: ICON #9

Origin: A Japanese-American graduate student, Valerie Kameya secretly made use of University facilities to develop a formula to increase the nervous system's efficiency by minimizing the build-up of fatigue poisons. The discovery of her misappropriations forced her to ingest her unfinished research. Unwittingly she also downed a compound known only as "quantum juice." As her body has not adjusted to the resulting superpowers, she may eventually require constant motion to keep her powers from killing her. This sobering fact haunts her every mission with the Shadow Cabinet.

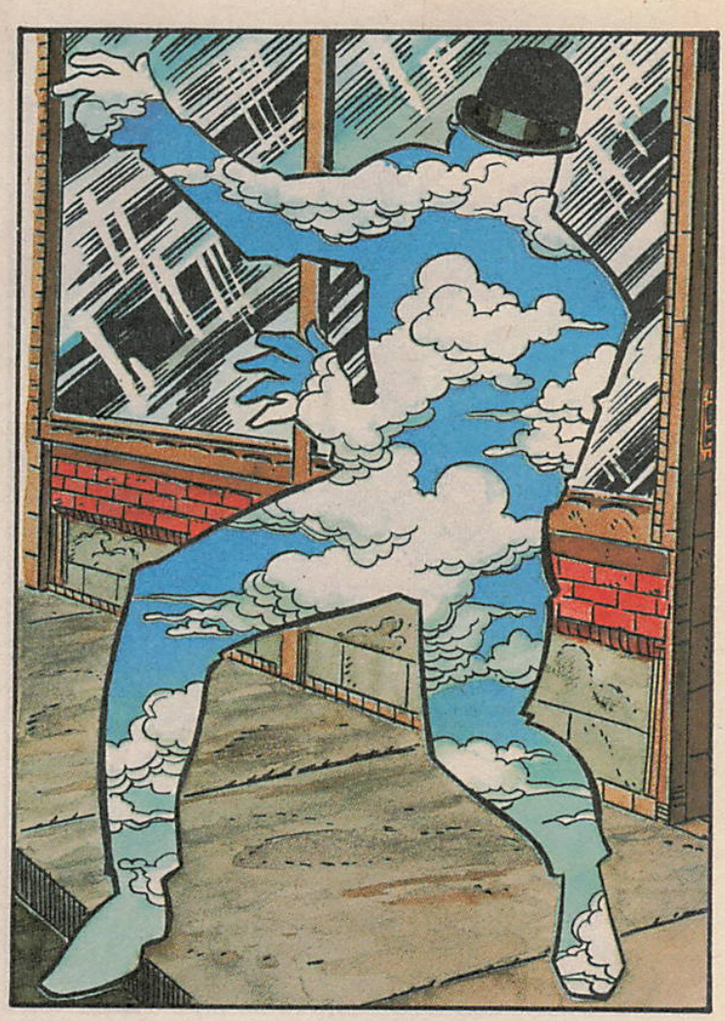
TWILIGHT

Real Name: Amnon David Silverstein

Powers: Twilight is a living gateway to a pocket universe.

First Comics Appearance: XOMBI #0

Origin: Amnon, a Jewish-American research physicist, accidentally blew himself out of reality and into a pocket universe roughly one kilometer cubed and slightly out of phase with this universe. Dharma became aware of his existence and obtained the technology to enable Twilight to shift between realities at will. His universe serves both as a repository for armies of strange creatures of his own design and a temporary holding pen for the Shadow Cabinet's defeated opponents.



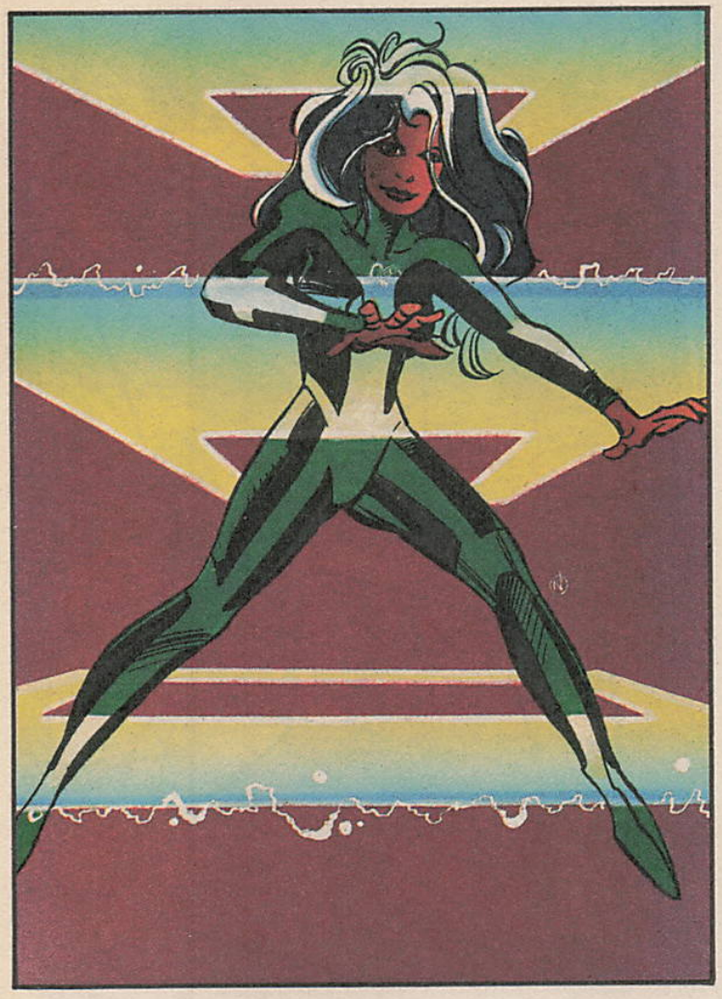
SIDESHOW

Real Name: Alvin Hill

Powers: Sideshow can restructure any part of his body to resemble that of any animal.

First Comics Appearance: BLOOD SYNDICATE #10

Origin: An African-American animal-rights activist and part-time news photographer, Alvin stumbled onto an illegal research laboratory. He was killed and dropped into a landfill along with the laboratory animals and a vat full of an untested compound known to affect DNA. His natural DNA structure was replaced by a system capable of absorbing and imitating the DNA of any other being. Dharma was the first person to find and establish social contact with Sideshow after the accident.



PLUS

Real Name: Nebhet and Nairobi Chawney

Powers: By manipulating her sister Nairobi, Nebhet is effectively telekinetic.

First Appearance: STATIC #8

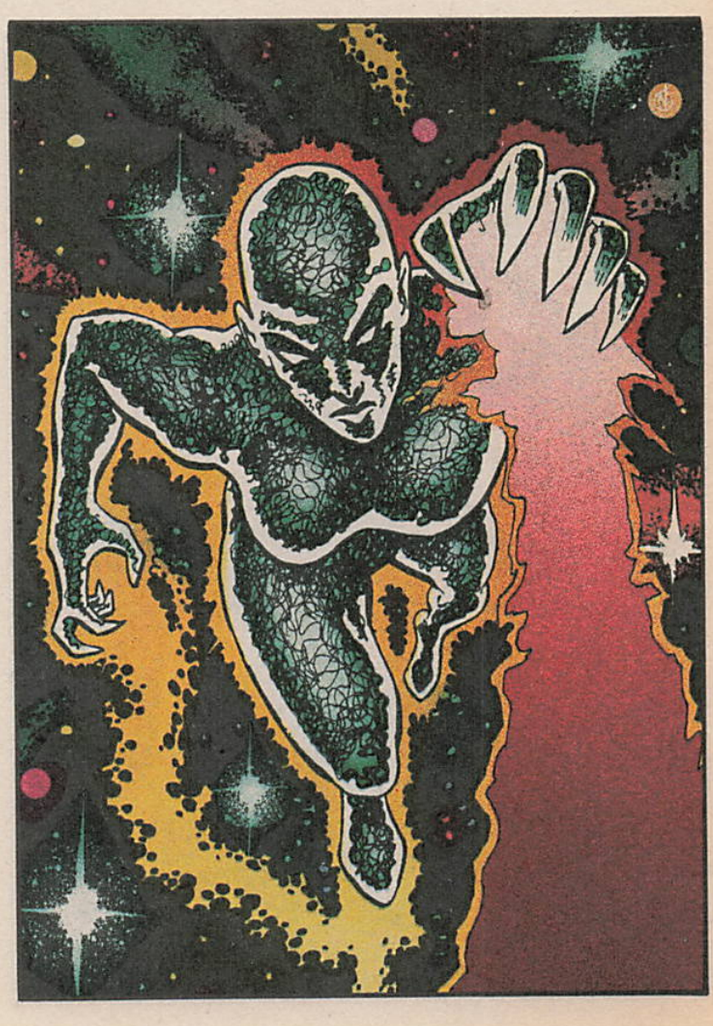
Origin: The origin of Plus is unknown. The eldest of Dharma's two sisters, Nairobi can turn herself into an envelope of energy at will when she "merges" her consciousness with her younger sister, Nebhet. When Nebhet wields her sister, she can enclose or grab people and objects, or snap the envelope like a wet towel for a "force bolt" effect. Dharma is uncomfortable around his sisters and keeps his kinship to them a secret. They are known only as "Plus" or "Nebbie C" to the rest of the Shadow Cabinet.

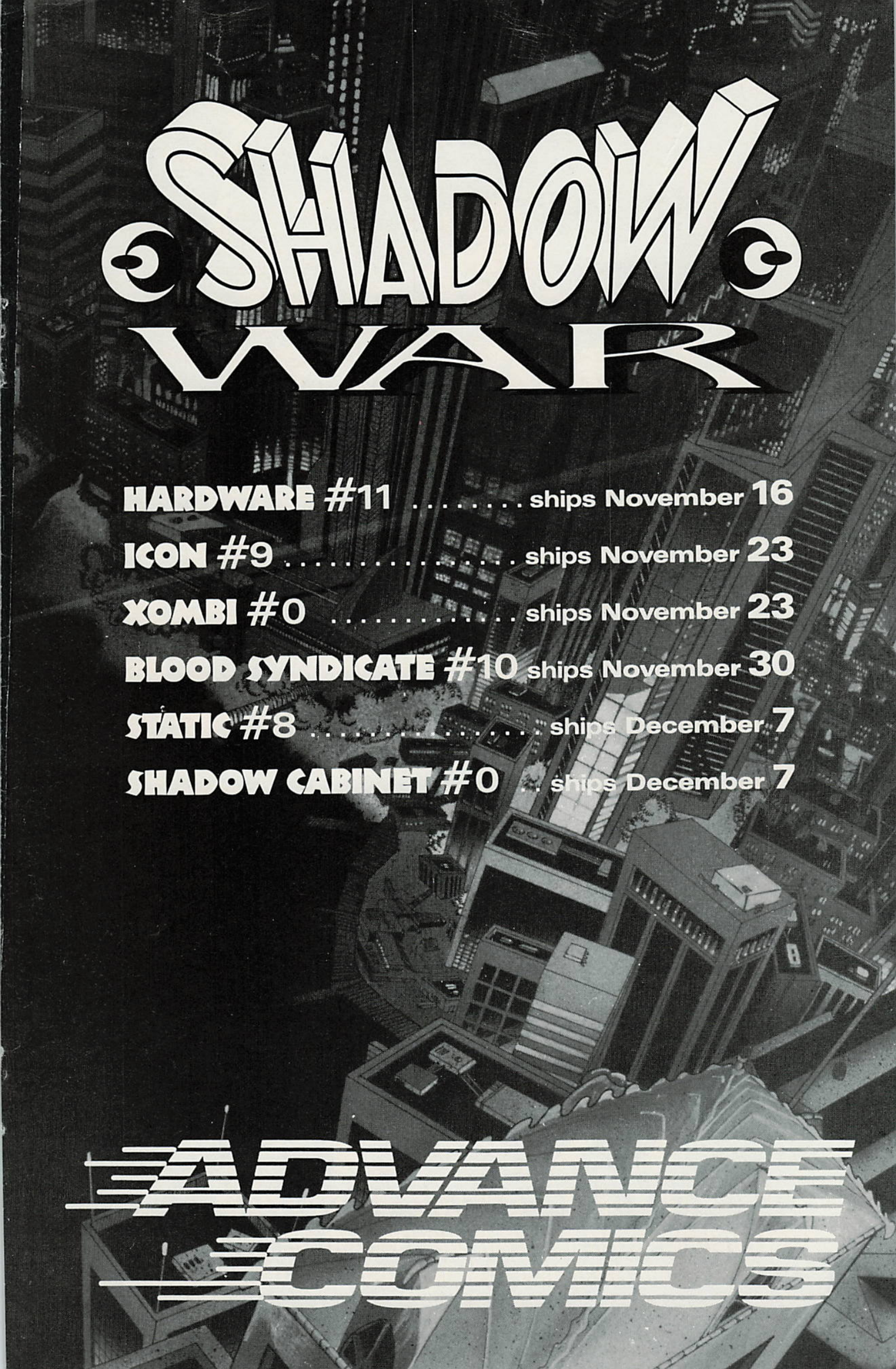
PROFESSOR NIGHT

Real Name: Merredith Lake

Powers: Professor Night can manipulate her own size, shape, gravity, density and X-ray output, as well as survive the vacuum of space.

Origin: Merredith Lake was a brilliant engineer and astronomer. As she completed her tachyon-imaging telescope on a shoestring budget, the test run opened an energy warp. The mishap spread her across space in a strand a few molecules thick and several light years long. When contained in human form, she appears to be made out of glittering, jet-black string, and can stretch herself into a limitless number of forms. By altering the balance between her massive gravity and her monumental X-ray output, she can produce a variety of effects that make her the Shadow Cabinet's most powerful member by a wide margin.




SHADOW WAR
HARDWARE #11 ..... ships November 16
ICON #9 ..... ships November 23
XOMBI #0 ..... ships November 23
BLOOD SYNDICATE #10 ships November 30
STATIC #8 ..... ships December 7
SHADOW CABINET #0 .. ships December 7
ADVANCE COMICS

THE BIG BANG WAS JUST THE BEGINNING...

SHADOW WAR

IT'S ALL COMING TOGETHER...

THE SECRET ORIGINS OF THE MILESTONE UNIVERSE AND THE SUPERPOWERED BEINGS WHO RESIDE THERE HAVE REMAINED HIDDEN IN THE SHADOWS.

UNTIL NOW.